

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

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R 160800Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3808

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SS UN

SUBJ: MOROCCO'S SAHARA TACTICS AT THE UN

1. FON MINISTRY'S ACTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
DIRECTOR ABDELLAH BENKIRANE GAVE EMBOFF RUNDOWN ON
GOM'S TACTICS FOR SAHARA DEBATE AT UN.

2. TIMING: BENKIRANE SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF THE SAHARA
WOULD BEGIN IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE EARLY NEXT WEEK.
HE ADDED THAT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE'S DECISION ON
THE MATTER WAS WHAT COUNTED. THE GA WOULD IN ALL
PROBABILITY FOLLOW FOURTH COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. TACTICS: BENKIRANE SAW NO NEED FOR PRESENT UNGA
RESOLUTION ON SAHARA TO BE MODIFIED, AN ACTION WHICH WOULD
REQUIRE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN GA. RATHER, HE SAID,
NEW RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MATTER TO BE REFERRED TO ICJ
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FOR ADVISORY OPINION COULD BE PASSED. OLD RESOLUTION, HE

NOTED, REMAINED VALID. ONLY PROBLEM WAS THAT SPAIN HAD REFUSED TO CARRY IT OUT.

4. LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION: BENKIRANE AGREED WITH EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION WOULD BE CRUCIAL. HE SAID THAT QUESTION TO BE POSED TO ICJ WOULD BE FORMULATED IN FOURTH COMMITTEE AND THIS LANGUAGE WOULD BE EMBODIED IN PROPOSED RESOLUTION. QUESTION WOULD IN GENERAL TERMS BE AS STATED IN KING HASSAN'S SEPT 17 PRESS CONFERENCE: THAT IS, WAS SAHARA RES NULLIUS OR ADMINISTERED TERRITORY PRIOR TO SPANISH OCCUPATION. GIVEN MAURITANIAN POSITION, BENKIRANE SAID, QUESTION PUT TO COURT COULD NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION POSSIBILITY THAT MOROCCO MIGHT HAVE ADMINISTERED TERRITORY PRIOR TO SPANISH OCCUPATION.

5. ATTITUDE OF INTERESTED PARTIES: BENKIRANE FORESAW NO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH MAURITANIA. ARAB SUMMIT, HE NOTED, HAD PASSED RESOLUTION ON SAHARA IN WHICH BOTH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAD CONCURRED. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ONCE ICJ HAD RENDERED ITS OPINION, GOM AND GIRM WOULD HAVE DIFFERENCES TO RECONCILE. SPANISH ATTITUDE, BENKIRANE SAID, REMAINED INTRANSIGENT AND GOS SEEMED INTENT ON PROCEEDING WITH REFERENDUM IN 1975.

6. PROGNOSTICATION: BENKIRANE THOUGHT THAT AGREEMENT ON REFERRING MATTER TO ICJ FOR ADVISORY OPINION WOULD BE REACHED QUITE EASILY. DURING HIS VISIT TO UN EARLIER THIS FALL, HE HAD SENSED STRONG INTEREST FOR ICJ IDEA AMONG DELEGATES. APPARENT ARAB SUMMIT ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSAL WOULD GIVE IT ADDED IMPETUS IN FOURTH COMMITTEE, HE CONCLUDED.
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